

RTTUZYUW RUTLAAA0568 3501904-UUUU--RUMJHK.
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FM FBIS WASHDC
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REF HK160157/160159 FROM NEW MINDANAO PAPER:
CONCUR IN THE USE OF SOURCELINE: +DAVAO CITY MINDANAO CURRENTS
IN ENGLISH.+ CH 16/1906Z DEC
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#0568

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RFTUZYUW RUMJCSB0702 3500239-0000--RUTLAAA,

DE RUMJHK #0006 3500213

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R 160159Z DEC 82

FM FBIS HONG KONG

TO AIG 4581

RUMJFBA/FBIS OKINAWA JA

RUMUAAA/13AF CLARK AB RP//IN//

RAYHYB/JIO CANBERNA AS

RHMDHLA/AFOSI DIST 92 CLARK AB RP//CC//

RUMJHUA/COMUSNAVPHIL SUBIC BAY RP

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UNCLAS 4P/88C

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MINDANAO COLUMNIST ON 'ECONOMICS OF POVERTY'

WK160159

DAVAD CITY MINDANAO CURRENTS IN ENGLISH 25 NOV - 9 DEC 82 PP 4, 7

((TENTATIVE))

((THE PULSEN COLUMN BY ALEXANDER L. OTT))91 "THE ECONOMICS OF POVERTY"))

((TEXT)) CURRENTS STARTS WITH THIS ISSUE A PAGE ON BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS. THIS ADDITION IS IN LINE WITH THE THRUST OF THE PAPER TO AFFORD ITS READERS WITH WIDER OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN A COMPREHENSIVE PERSPECTIVE OF THE NATIONAL SITUATION WHILE ALSO GIVING RECOGNITION TO A PERSONAL BIAS BORNE OUT BY STUDIES THAT AT THE ROOTS OF TODAY'S MULTIFARIOUS PROBLEMS IS THE ISSUE ON ECONOMICS.

NOT THAT WE DO NOT TAKE COGNIZANCE OF OTHER FACTORS NON-ECONOMIC IN NATURE, BUT THAT ALONG WITH THE THEORY ON ECONOMIC DETERMINISM PROFOUNDED BY A LEADING SOCIAL SCIENTIST, WE, TOO, HOLD THE VIEW THAT WRONG ECONOMIC DECISIONS, HAVE HAD PROFOUND INFLUENCE ON THE FILIPINO LIVES AND THEIR CONCOMITANT MISERIES.

WE ARE, OF COURSE, AWARE OF THE HAZARDS THAT LIE AHEAD. FOR EVEN AMONG SO-CALLED ECONOMISTS, RED CANNOT BE RED TO ALL AND NEITHER WOULD BLACK APPEAR GRAY TO SOME. HENCE, THE ISSUE ON WHETHER AN ECONOMIC DECISION IS RIGHT IS BOTH A QUESTION AND A RIGHT BY ITSELF AND COULD VERILY LEAD TO A RUNNING DEBATE. FOR WHILE ECONOMICS MAY PROVIDE THE FRAMEWORK FOR ANALYSIS, CERTAIN FACTORS EXTRANEOUS TO IT SUCH AS THE POLITICAL AND CULTURAL MILIEU ARE LIKEWISE GIVEN DUE ACCOUNT.

IN THE END, ECONOMIC DECISIONS - NOT UNLIKE OTHER DECISIONS - ARE TO BE EVALUATE IN TERMS OF THE OBJECTIVES. THIS EXPLAINS WHY TO SOME GOVERNMENT ECONOMISTS, CONTINUOUS EXPOSURE TO WORLD BANK OR IMF LOANS OF WHICH WE HAVE TOO MUCH OR THE UNABATED HEAVY RELIANCE ON U.S. "ASSISTANCE" OF WHICH WE HAVE GONE TOO DEEPLY, IS A NEEDED DOSE FOR THE ECONOMY WHILE SUCH A POSTURE MAY BE VIEWED WITH NOT ONLY DISFAVOR AND DISTASTE BUT WITH CONTEMPT BY OTHERS WHO, LIKE WE, THINK THAT SUCH AN ECONOMIC ORIENTATION PROMOTES RATHER

THEREFORE UNPATRIOTIC, AND CERTAINLY WRONG,

NOR DO WE LOSE SIGHT OF THE POSSIBILITY NOT QUITE REMOTE THAT WHEN CARRIED TOO FAR, EVENTS MAY TEND TO BE EVALUATED SOLELY ON ECONOMIC PARAMETERS, THAT WOULD BE EQUALLY WRONG.

BUT WHAT SEEMS TO BE A GRAVER WRONG IS WHEN THE PRESENT DISPENSATION IS DENOUNCED ONLY IN POLITICAL REPRESSIONS SUCH AS HAMLETTING, TORTURES, SALVAGING ARBITRARY ARRESTS AND DETENTIONS AND THEIR LIKES OR OF FRAUDULENT ELECTIONS OF WHICH WE HAVE HAD PLENTY AND APPARENTLY MORE IN THE OFFING, AND BLOCK VOTING AND CONSTITUTIONAL MANIPULATIONS. TRUE AND REAL AS THEY CERTAINLY ARE, THESE ARE BASICALLY POLITICAL ISSUES WHICH TO THE ORDINARY MAN ON THE STREET MAY NOT MEAN AS MUCH, SHORT OF HIS STOMACH AND WHAT TO STUFF IT WITH.

MOREOVER, THE QUESTION IS NOT REALLY ONE OF EITHER ONE OR THE OTHER, THAT WOULD BE MISLEADING, FOR CONTEMPORARY STUDIES PROGRESSIVELY AND AMPLY DOCUMENT THE FACT THAT CERTAIN ECONOMIC OVERTONES ARE BEHIND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, FOR INSTANCE, HAD IT NOT BEEN SAID THAT BEHIND THE HAMLETTING THING AT SAN VICENTE (LAAC), DAVAO NORIE IS THE PROSPECT OF A RUBBER PLANTATION OF A MULTINATIONAL CORPORATION, BUT WHICH PLAN CANNOT BE PURSUED UNTIL THE AREA IS CLEARED OF PEOPLE?

OR THAT IN TROUBLE-PRONE PAQUIBATO DISTRICT, THE SPECTRE OF A PANGAYAO (TRIBAL WAR) BETWEEN TWO WARRING ATA TRIBES LOOMS AS HIGH AS THE EVENTUALITY OF THE ATAS BEING DISPOSSESSED OF THEIR ANCESTRAL LANDS TO GIVE WAY TO ANOTHER GIANT PLANTATION NOW VERY MUCH IN THE MAKING?

OR THAT MORE AND MORE ARE BEING TAKEN AWAY BY THE MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS WHICH SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED IN FEROCITY AND NUMBER DURING THE MARTIAL LAW ERA, LEAVING US WITH LESS AND LESS?

IN THIS VEIN, POVERTY BECOMES NOT JUST AN ECONOMIC WORRY BUT A POLITICAL MISERY AS WELL BEING AN OFFSHOOT OF A STRUCTURAL

INSANE ORDER OF PRIORITIES. HENCE, THE RESULTING BLEND BETWEEN THE ECONOMIC AND THE POLITICAL RENDERING ANY DISTINCTION BETWEEN THEM HARDLY DISCERNIBLE.

CASES LIKE THESE ARE NEITHER RARE OF THEIR KIND NOR FAR IN BETWEEN, TEMPTING ONE TO LEND BELIEF TO WHAT APPEARS TO BE THE ONLY LOGICAL CONCLUSION: THAT THESE POLITICAL REPRESSIONS ARE PREMEDITATED AS THEY ARE ALSO DELIBERATELY DONE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF A GRANDIOSE BUT VICIOUS ECONOMIC DESIGN.

AND SO WE ASK: TO BEGIN WITH, WAS NOT MARTIAL LAW IMPOSED ON A HELPLESS PEOPLE TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE CERTAIN ECONOMIC INTERESTS? IF SO, FOR WHOM AND BY WHOM?

(ENDALL) 5 DEC 16/0234Z DEC

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DE RUMJHK 00005 3500212

ZNR UUUA ZYN ZPO

R 140157Z DEC 82

FM FBIS HONG KONG

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RAYMYB/JIO CANBERRA AS

RHMDWLA/AFOSI DISI 42 CLARK AB RP//CG//

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MINDANAO PAPER ON PREDICAMENT OF MEDIA

HK160157

DAVAO CITY MINDANAO CURRENTS IN ENGLISH 25 NOV-5 DEC 82 P 2

(TENTATIVE))

((EDITORIAL: "WHY IMAGE..."))

((TEXT)) NEVER WAS THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM BEEN MORE CRUCIAL AS IT IS TODAY WHEN THE FORCES OF OPPRESSION HAVE UNLEASHED WITH GREATER IMPUNITY THEIR VICIOUS MACHINERIES AT ALL FRONTS.

TRUE, SAD IS THE STATE OF AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTRY, BUT WORSE STILL IS THE THOUGHT THAT THE MEDIA -- ONCE THE CITADEL OF TRUTH AND JUSTICE AND FREEDOM -- HAS GENERALLY BECOME SUBSERVIENT AND APATHETIC, IF NOT WILLING INSTRUMENTS OF DECEPTION.

INDEED, THE SITUATION HAS DEGENERATED INTO SUCH A MISERABLE PREDICAMENT THAT NOT JUST A FEW HAVE GIVEN UP ALL HOPES, NOW AND IN THE DISCERNIBLE FUTURE, AND RETREATED TO THE SANCTUARY OF SILENCE THINKING THAT IN THE SOLACE OF THEIR SOLITUDE, THEY CAN REST IN PEACE.

ILLUSIONS, INDEED, AND ONE THAT FEEDS ON THE VANITY OF THE FLESH AND FORGETTING THE MORE ENRICHING AND CERTAINLY MORE FULFILLING CALL OF CONSCIENTIZING JOURNALISM.

WHICH IS WHAT THE MEDIA MUST BE.

BUT NOT SO -- AT LEAST -- WITH THE MINDANAO CURRENTS AND A SCORE OF OTHER PAPERS WHOSE VISION REMAINS AS HOPEFUL AND STRONG AS THE PROSPECT OF A COLLECTIVE STRENGTH GENERATED FROM AMONG A PEOPLE MOVED BY PERCEPTIONS AND A CONSUMING DESIRE TO PURSUE ITS MISSION TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION.

IT IS THIS STRENGTH THAT THE CURRENTS AIMS TO GENERATE, AND IF ONLY FOR THIS, THE PAPER WILL STAND FOR, BY, AND WITH THE PEOPLE AND AGAINST ANYTHING THAT WILL VITIATE THIS NOBLE END.

DYLAN THOMAS' WORDS COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MORE APT AND FITTING: "DO NOT GO GENTLE INTO THAT GOOD NIGHT, RAGE, RAGE AGAINST THE DYING OF THE LIGHT."

((ENDALL)) 9 DEC 16/0210Z DEC

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